

The Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers For the Aging

Government Administration and Elections Committee

In support of the Commission on Aging

March 17, 2010

Presented by Mag Morelli, CANPFA President

Good Morning Senator Slossberg, Representative Spallone, and members of the Committee. My name is Mag Morelli and I am the President of the Connecticut Association of Not-for-profit Providers for the Aging, (CANPFA), an association of over 150 not-for-profit providers of aging services. CANPFA represents not-for-profit senior housing, adult day centers, home health agencies, assisted living service agencies, residential care homes, nursing homes, and continuing care retirement communities. I am here today to speak in support of the Commission on Aging. We are asking that you reject the Governor's Bill No. 28 An Act Consolidating State Agencies and Eliminating Certain Legislative Commissions and retain the Commission on Aging.

As a representative of the full continuum of long term care services for older adults, CANPFA members look to the Commission on Aging as one of the leading experts in long-term care in CT. As an independent agency, the Commission on Aging is able to take an objective view of the spectrum of services to determine what is needed for our older adults and to guide policymakers for what is right for both the consumer and the state.

The Legislature and the Executive branch should consider the Commission to be a valuable resource. Connecticut is a state with an aging population and our state's policy initiatives must take this into consideration. The Commission is the perfect entity to guide those initiatives. It was established to promote public policy that embraces best practices, national trends and statewide needs on issues such as senior housing, health care, long term care, and transportation. The Commission does just that with the guidance and insight of a representative volunteer board that provides knowledge and expertise for an impartial policy perspective.

As a member of the Long Term Care Advisory Committee, CANPFA has witnessed the leadership that has been displayed by the Commission and its executive director. A unifying force, the Commission on Aging has brought together a diverse spectrum of advocates to work toward the common goal of achieving a seamless system of long term care. This is extremely important as we move beyond the traditional approach of viewing programs and services as individual silos and begin to look at long term care as a complete continuum of

services. The Commission has moved us forward in this direction and we believe that the elderly citizens of this state have benefited from it. From the recent comprehensive long term care needs assessment to the State's consumer friendly long term care web site, the Commission has been a leader.

In closing I would encourage the Committee to support the Commission on Aging and to look to it as a resource to the Legislature and a benefit to older citizens of this state.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.

Mag Morelli, President

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